

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AF-10 EUR-12 CPR-01
CU-04 /092 W

-----090281 112118Z /45

R 110930Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4857
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, LE
SUBJECT: WORLD COUNCIL OF LEBANESE CULTURAL UNION

REF: (A) BEIRUT 3772, (B) STATE 183060

1. SUMMARY: WORLD COUNCIL OF LEBANESE CULTURAL UNION (WLCU), THE LEADING LEBANESE IMMIGRANT ORGANIZATION, CONVENED AT BEIT MERY, WEEK OF AUGUST 1-5. HIGHLIGHT OF MEETING WAS RECEIPT OF MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER (REF B). CONGRESS APPARENTLY RESISTED EFFORTS ON PART OF RIGHTIST POLITICAL GROUPS TO ENLIST THEIR SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. WLCU CONCLUDED ITS 6TH WORLD CONFERENCE AUGUST 6 WITH A CALL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOL MINISTRY FOR EMMIGRANTS AND THREE MAJOR RESOLUTIONS WHICH, ACCORDING TO IKE AUGUST 7:

A. CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF "LEBANESE LOBBIES IN VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL POWER CENTERS;"

B. OFFERED SUPPORT OF UNION FOR "PROJECTS WHICH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEBANESE STATE BELIEVES THE LEBANESE EMMIGRANTS CAN IMPLEMENT;" AND,

C. APPEALED FOR ACTION AGAINST ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE CLAIMING TO WORK IN THE NAME OF LEBANESE EMMIGRANTS AND WHICH ARE IN FACT ZIONIST POWER CENTERS OR REPRESENT ARAB EMBASSIES INTERESTED IN STRIPPING THE LEBANESE EMMIGRANT COMMUNITY OF ITS UNIQUE CHARACTER."

3. CHRISTIAN PHALANGE PARTY AND NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY OPERATIVES MADE STRONG LOBBYING EFFORT DURING CONGRESS TO ENLIST EMIGRANTS' SUPPORT. AT BASH PUT ON AT CASINO DU LIBAN AUGUST 6 BY PHALANGE POLITICAL BUREAU FOR WLCU DELEGATES, WLCU SECRETARY GENERAL ABU-JAWDE (A LEBANESE-AMERICAN) TOLD POLITICAL OFFICER MOLINEAUX THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH CHRISTIANS HAD FOCUSED ON QUESTION OF HOW EMIGRANTS' FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO LEBANON SHOULD BE SPENT. ABU-JAWDE SAID PHALANGISTS AND NATIONAL LIBERAL CONTACTS HAD URGED MONEY BE CONTRIBUTED TO RECONSTRUCTION OF THE LEBANESE ARMY. HE SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THAT REAL INTENT OF PROPOSAL WAS TO ENHANCE INFLUENCE OF THE TWO PARTIES WITHIN THE ARMY. HE SAID IT WAS A POOR CHOICE OF A CAUSE ANYWAY, SINCE PEOPLE WOULD HARDLY BE INSPIRED TO CONTRIBUTE MONEY TO THE MILITARY.

4. WLCU PRESIDENT DR. RAHI MADE SPEECH AT CASINO FUNCTION WHICH WAS LAUDATORY OF THE PHALANGE AND OF SHEIKH PIERRE GEMAYEL. ABU-JAWDE COMMENTED THAT HE WOULD BE FULLY OCCUPIED FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS IN EXPLAINING AWAY THE PRO-CHRISTIAN BIAS OF RAHI'S COMMENTS TO VARIOUS LEBANESE EMIGRANT GROUPS IN AFRICA, EUROPE, AND THE UNITED STATES. SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF AND FOR WHAT HE CLAIMED WAS THE SENTIMENT OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GREAT MAJORITY OF THE EMIGRANTS, ABU-JAWDE SAID THAT THE WLCU SHOULD NOT SUPPORT THE PARTIES, BUT MUST FIND APPROPRIATE MEANS TO SUPPORT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AND ALL THE LEBANESE, WITHOUT CONFESSIONAL BIAS. (COMMENT: RESOLUTIONS OF THE CONFERENCE -- PARA 2 ABOVE -- SUGGEST THAT RIGHTIST EFFORTS TO WIN EMIGRANTS' SUPPORT HAVE BEEN FIRMLY RESISTED.)

5. WLCU PRESIDENT RAHI SENT LETTER VIA EMBASSY TO SECRETARY VANCE ON AUGUST 2, THANKING PRESIDENT CARTER FOR HIS MESSAGE (THE SECRETARY VISITED BEIRUT AUGUST 3). UNFORTUNATELY, THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE WAS TOO TIGHT TO PERMIT HIM TO REPLY PERSONALLY. AMBASSADOR HAS ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIPT OF LETTER, ORIGINAL OF WHICH IS BEING POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT. FULL TEXT AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE. HONORABLE CYRUS VANCE, SECRETARY OF STATE. ON THE OCCASION OF THE 6TH WORLD CONGRESS OF THE WORLD LEBANESE CULTURAL UNION BEING HELD NOW IN LEBANON AND DUE TO THE MOST FAVORABLE REACTION THE TELEGRAM OF PRESIDENT CARTER RECEIVED DURING THIS

CONVENTION, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO
EXTEND TO PRESIDENT CARTER THROUGH YOUR EXCELLENCY OUR
MOST SINCERE THANKS AND APPRECIATION.

IT IS NOT ONLY THE DESIRE OF THOSE ATTENDING THIS
CONVENTION, WHO HAVE COME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, BUT
THE DESIRE OF EVERY LEBANESE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE LEBANON
THAT AMERICA, THE CHAMPION OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY IN
THE WORLD, CONTINUE TO SUPPORT LEBANON'S INDEPENDENCE,
DEMOCRACY, SOVEREIGNTY AND FREEDOM. THE LEBANESE
PEOPLE, THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, BELIEVE IN THE SAME
SACRED HUMAN VALUES AMERICA BELIEVES IN. FOR THIS
REASON WE BELIEVE AND ARE VERY COMFORTABLE WHEN WE KNOW
THAT AMERICA IS CONTINUING TO DEMONSTRATE AND MANIFEST
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ITS DEEP SUPPORT FOR LEBANON'S EFFORTS TO REGAIN ITS
MOST DESIRABLE STATUS AS A FREE, INDEPENDENT AND
SOVEREIGN NATION. SINCERELY, DR. DAHER B. RAHI,
PRESIDENT, WORLD COUNCIL, WORLD LEBANESE CULTURAL UNION.
END QUOTE.

6. BEIRUT FRENCH-LANGUAGE PRESS HAD MISTRANSLATED CARTER LETTER
AS RELEASED BY WLCU IN A WAY WHICH EXAGGERATES US COMMITMENT
TO LEBANON (REF A). EMBASSY HAS ISSUED COMPLETE TEXT OF
PRESIDENT'S LETTER AS FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT (REF B) AS
PRESS RELEASE TO KEEP THE RECORD STRAIGHT.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS, MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770290-0117
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770873/aaaacjym.tel
Line Count: 148
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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